

PR 4034.P6 1926
Plan of a nov cen
3 0081 002 063 802

JOINT UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES



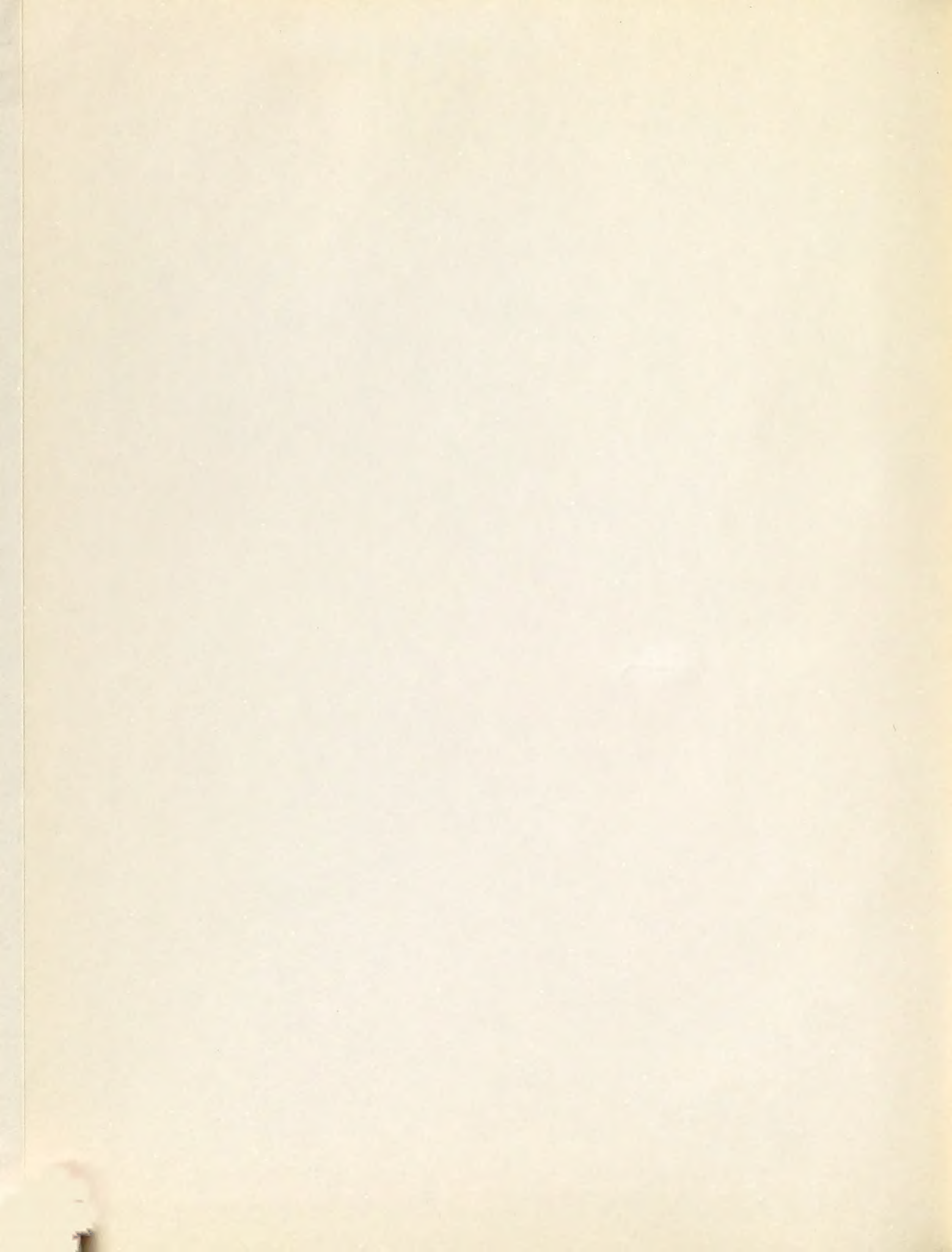
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

PR
4034
.P6
1926

715270

Date Due

RETURNED 14 NOV 1978 NOV 14 1978	RETURNED 12 FEB 1982 FEB 14 1982
RETURNED AUG 18 1983 AUG 12 1983 RETURNED OCT 10 1993 OCT 15 1993	
SEP 16 1994 RETURNED SEP 15 1994 SEP 02 1994	





PLAN OF A NOVEL

And Other Discourses

JANE AUSTEN

PLAN OF A NOVEL

And Other Documents

by

JANE AUSTEN

*350 Copies printed
at the University Press
Oxford, England*

PLAN OF A NOVEL

According to Hints from

Various Quarters

By

JANE AUSTEN

With Opinions on

MANSFIELD PARK and EMMA

Collected and Transcribed by her

And Other Documents

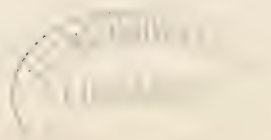
Printed from the Originals

OXFORD

AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

1926

Printed in England
At the OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
By John Johnson
Printer to the University



PR
4034
.P.
1924

715270

P R E F A C E

ALLUSIONS to her novels occur not infrequently in Jane Austen's letters, and these are well known. It is less well known that she was at the pains to collect and write out the opinions expressed, by members of her circle, on *Mansfield Park* and on *Emma*, about the time of their publication. These are mentioned in the *Memoir* by J. E. Austen-Leigh, but with only scanty quotations. The *Opinions of Emma* are printed in full in the *Life and Letters* by the late W. Austen-Leigh and R. A. Austen-Leigh (1913; p. 328). But the *Opinions of Mansfield Park* have not been printed except in brief quotations. What Jane Austen thought it worth while to write, many people will wish to read.

AP The satirical *Plan of a Novel, according to hints from various quarters* is printed in the *Memoir* (imperfectly and inaccurately) and in the *Life and Letters* (correctly). But a document so remarkable seems to deserve the honour of facsimile. In what way, or to what extent, it was inspired by the 'critics' named in the margin, can only be guessed; but there is every reason to suppose that the impulse to composition was given by the Rev. J. S. Clarke, librarian to the Prince Regent, who in 1815 (acting, or professing to act, on behalf of his Royal Master) invited Jane Austen to Carlton House and authorized her to dedicate any forthcoming novel to the Prince. A correspondence ensued, both sides of which have been preserved; for Miss Austen was careful to keep copies of her letters. It will be seen that the character of the clergyman, in the *Plan*, is indeed 'according to hints' supplied by Mr. Clarke.

C O N T E N T S

	PAGE
I. Plan of a Novel according to Hints from Various Quarters ¹	9
II. Opinions of <i>Mansfield Park</i> ²	13
III. Opinions of <i>Emma</i> ²	19
IV. Correspondence between Miss Austen and the Rev. J. S. Clarke ¹	25
V. Notes by Miss Austen on the Dates of Composi- tion of her Novels and on the Profits derived from them ¹	35

¹ Now in the Pierpont Morgan Library.

² Now in the British Museum.

Plan of a Novel according to hints from
various quarters.

1. W. Gilman. ^{Daughter} seems to be in the country. She is the
child of a ¹burgess, married after having
lived much in the world had married him - it
settled on a Curacy, with a very small fortune
of her own. She, the most excellent Man that
can be imagined, perfect in ²Character, Temper &
Manners - ~~being a perfect gentleman~~,
~~and being in every way connected with him~~,
without the smallest drawback or peculiarity
to prevent his being the most delightful com-
panion to his Daughter from one year's end
to the other. - He is a ³perfect character her-
self - perfectly good, with much tenderness &
devotion, and the best ⁴wit - very highly
accomplished, understanding modern Languages
& generally speaking / completing that the
most accomplished young women learn, but
particulars nothing in Music - her favourite
pursuit - & playing equally well on the
Piano Forte - & singing in the first style.
Her Person, quite beautiful. - Dark eyes &
blush cheeks. - Brought to open ⁵with the
description of Father & Daughter - to converse
in long speeches, elegant Language - & a tone
of high, serious sentiment. - The Father to
be induced, at his Daughter's earnest request, to
2. Fanny Knight
3. Mary's do.
4. Fanny K.
5. Mary Carter

relate to the last events of his life. This
Narrative will reach through the greater part
of the 1.st vol. - as besides all the circumstances
of his attachment to his Mother & Sister, having
it will comprehend his going to sea, as Chaplain
to a distinguished Naval Character, about the time
his going afterwards to Court himself, which
introduced him to a great variety of Characters
& involved him in many interesting situations,
concluding with his opinion of the benefits
to result from Syphilis being done away, & his
having buried his ^{own} Mother. (Harris's committed
Grave with her.) in consequence of the High Priest
of the Parish in which she died, refusing
to pay her the usual respect due to them.
The Father to be of a very liberal turn, an Enthusiast
in Literature, & always ready but his own -
at the same time most zealous in the discharge
of his pastoral duties, the model of an exemplary
Parish Priest. - There were friendships to be
sought after as a young man in the same

Mr. Sherr.

Mr. Locke

Neighbourhood, of talents & all kinds of talents, with slight
eyes to a fine skin, but having a considerable
degree of wit. Harris shall - it will come from the
narrative. From this point the story will
proceed - it contains a striking variety of adventures

Mr. Harris

Harris's Mother & Sister were always in the neighbourhood
together in one place, he being from his literary

10.

11.

12:

12. Mr. Pease. angry that he sh^d not be first applied to.
Boston Lodge. Often carried away by the anti. press, but
rescued either by her Father or the Press
often reduced to support herself & her Father
by her Talents & work for her Bread;— con-
tinually cheated & defrauded of her Price, worn
down to a skeleton & now & then. Nearer to
Death — At last, trusted out of civilized society
denied the poor shelter of the humblest cottage
they are compelled to retreat into Kamtschatka

where the poor father, quite worn down,
finding his end approaching, throws himself
on the ground, & after 4 or 5 hours of tender
advice & parental admonition to his miserable
child, expires in a fine burst of literary
Enthusiasm, intermingled with Incoherence
again. Guides of Follies. He is incoherently
for some time - but afterwards crawls back
towards the former Country - having at least
20 narrow escapes of falling into the hands of
Anti-bes - & at last in the very nick of
time turning a corner to avoid them. Runs
into the arms of the Soc. President, who
having just shaken off the scruples which
held him before, was at the very moment
setting off in pursuit of him. - The Tender
rest & complete. Delicacy of sentiment takes place,
& they are happily united. Throughout the
article work, Heine to be in the most
elegant society & living in high style.

¹³ Among tonight

¹⁴ W. H. Caven The name of the work not to be Panama.

¹⁵ W. H. Sanford but of the same sort as ¹⁶ W. H. and P. H.

I.

Plan of a Novel, according to hints from various quarters.

Scene to be in the Country, Heroine the Daughter of
¹ Mr Gifford a ¹ Clergyman, one who after having lived much in the World
 had retired from it, & settled in a Curacy, with a very small
 fortune of his own.—He, the most excellent Man that can be
 imagined, perfect in Character, Temper & Manners—without
 the smallest drawback or peculiarity to prevent his being the
 most delightful companion to his Daughter from one year's
² Fanny Knight end to the other.—Heroine a ² faultless Character herself—,
 perfectly good, with much tenderness & sentiment, & not the
³ Mary Cooke. least ³ Wit—very highly ⁴ accomplished, understanding modern
⁴ Fanny K. Languages & (generally speaking) everything that the most
 accomplished young Women learn, but particularly excelling
 in Music—her favourite pursuit—& playing equally well on the
 Piano Forte & Harp—& singing in the first stile. Her Person,
⁵ Mary Cooke quite beautiful—⁵ dark eyes & plump cheeks.—Book to open
 with the description of Father & Daughter—who are to converse
 in long speeches, elegant Language—& a tone of high, serious
 sentiment.—The Father to be induced, at his Daughter's earnest
 request, to relate to her the past events of his Life. This
 Narrative will reach through the greatest part of the 1st vol.—
 as besides all the circumstances of his attachment to her Mother
 & their Marriage, it will comprehend his going to sea as
⁶ Mr Clarke. ⁶ Chaplain to a distinguished Naval Character about the Court,
 his going afterwards to Court himself, which introduced him to

a great variety of Characters & involved him in many interesting situations, concluding with his opinion of the Benefits to result from Tythes being done away, & his having buried his own Mother (Heroine's lamented Grandmother) in consequence of the High Priest of the Parish in which she died, refusing to pay her Remains the respect due to them. The Father to be of a very literary turn, an Enthusiast in Literature, nobody's Enemy but his own—at the same time most zealous in the discharge of his Pastoral Duties, the model of an exemplary Parish Priest.—The heroine's friendship to be sought after by a young Woman in the same Neighbourhood, of Talents & Shrewdness, with light eyes & a fair skin, but having a considerable degree of Wit, Heroine shall shrink from the acquaintance.—From this outset, the Story will proceed, & contain a striking variety of adventures. Heroine & her Father never above a fortnight together in one place, *he* being driven from his Curacy by the vile arts of some totally unprincipled & heart-less young Man, desperately in love with the Heroine, & pursuing her with unrelenting passion—no sooner settled in one Country of Europe than they are necessitated to quit it & retire to another—always making new acquaintance, & always obliged to leave them.—This will of course exhibit a wide variety of Characters—but there will be no mixture; the scene will be for ever shifting from one Set of People to another—but all the Good will be unexceptionable in every respect—and there will be no foibles or weaknesses but with the Wicked, who will be completely depraved & infamous, hardly a resemblance of Humanity left in them.—Early in her career, in the progress of her first removals, Heroine must meet with the Hero—all perfection of course—&

⁷ Mr Sherer.

⁸ Mary Cooke

⁹ Many Critics

¹⁰ Mary Cooke.

¹¹ Fanny Knight

only prevented from paying his addresses to her, by some excess of refinement.—Wherever she goes, somebody falls in love with her, & she receives repeated offers of Marriage—which she always refers wholly to her Father, exceedingly angry that ¹² *he* sh^d not be first applied to.—Often carried away by the anti-hero, but rescued either by her Father or the Hero—often reduced to support herself & her Father by her Talents & work for her Bread;—continually cheated & defrauded of her hire, worn down to a Skeleton, & now & then starved to death—. At last, hunted out of civilized Society, denied the poor Shelter of the humblest Cottage, they are compelled to retreat into Kamschatka where the poor Father, quite worn down, finding his end approaching, throws himself on the Ground, & after 4 or 5 hours of tender advice & parental Admonition to his miserable Child, expires in a fine burst of Literary Enthusiasm, intermingled with Investives again(st) Holder's of Tythes.—Heroine inconsolable for some time—but afterwards crawls back towards her former Country—having at least 20 narrow escapes of falling into the hands of Anti-hero—& at last in the very nick of time, turning a corner to avoid him, runs into the arms of the Hero himself, who having just shaken off the scruples which fetter'd him before, was at the very moment setting off in pursuit of her.—The Tenderest & completest Eclaircissement takes place, & they are happily united.—Throughout the

¹² Mrs Pearse
of
Chilton-Lodge.

¹³ Fanny Knight whole work, Heroine to be in the most ¹³ elegant Society &

¹⁴ Mrs Craven living in high style. The name of the work *not* to be ¹⁴ *Emma*—

¹⁵ Mr H. Sanford but of the same sort as ¹⁵ S & S. and P & P.

Opinions of Mansfield Park. —

'We certainly do not think it as a whole, equal to P. & P. — but it has many & great beauties. Fanny is a delightful Character' and Aunt Norris is a great favourite of mine. The Characters are natural & well supported, & many of the Dialogues excellent. — You need not fear the publication being considered as discreditable to the talents of its Author. F. W. A.

Not so clever as P. & P. — but pleased with it altogether. Liked the character of Fanny. Admired the Portsmouth Scene. —

Edward & George. — Not liked it ^{near} so well as P. & P. — Edward admired Fanny — George disliked her. — George interested by nobody but Mary Crawford. — Edward pleased with Henry C. — Edmund objected to, as cold & formal. — Henry C. & going off with Mr. R. — at such a time, when so much in love with Fanny. — thought unnatural, by Edward. —

Fanny's Knight. — Liked it, in many parts, very much indeed, delighted with Fanny; — but not satisfied with the end — wanting more love between her & Edmund — & could not think it natural that Edm^d & she should be so much attached to a woman without principle like Mary C. — or promote Fanny's marrying Henry. —

Anna liked it better than P. & P. — but not so well as P. & P. — could not bear Fanny. — Delighted with Mr. Norris, the scene at Portsmouth, & all the humorous parts. —

Mr. James Austen, very much pleased. Enjoyed Mr. Norris particularly, & the scene at Portsmouth. — & Henry Crawford's going off with Mr. Rushworth, very natural. —

Miss Clive & objections much the same as Fanny's. —

Miss Lloyd preferred it altogether to either of the others. — Delighted with Fanny. — Hated Mr. Norris. —

My Mother — not liked it so well as P. & P. — Thought Fanny insipid. — Enjoyed M^{rs} Norris.

Capendra — thought it quite as clever, tho' not so brilliant as P. & P. — Fond of Fanny. — Delighted much in M^{rs} Rushworth's stupidity. —

My Eldest Brother — a warm admirer of it in general. — Delighted with the Portsmouth Scene.

Edward — Much like his Father. — Objected to M^{rs} Rushworth's Eliza: much as unnatural.

M^{rs} B. L. — Highly pleased with Fanny Price — & a warm admirer of the Portsmouth Scene. — Angry with Edmund for not being in love with her, & hating M^{rs} Norris for teasing her. —

Miss Biddell — Did not like it so well as P. & P.

M^{rs} James Tilson — Liked it better than P. & P.

Fanny Price — did not much like it — not to be compared to P. & P. — nothing interesting in the Character — Language poor. — Character's natural & well supported — Improved as it went on. —

M^{rs} & M^{rs} Cooke — very much pleased with it — particularly with the manner in which the Cluges are treated. — M^{rs} Cooke called it "the most sensible novel he had ever read." — M^{rs} Cooke wished for a good National Character.

Mary Cooke — quite as much pleased with it, as her Father & Mother; seemed to enter into Lady B.'s character & enjoyed M^{rs} Rushworth's folly. — Admired Fanny in general, but thought she ought to have been more determined on overcoming her own feelings, when she saw Edmund's attachment to Miss Crawford. —

Miss Burrell — admired it very much — particularly M^{rs} Norris & Dr. Grant. —

M^{rs} Branstons — much pleased with it, particularly with the character of Fanny, as being so very natural. — Thought Lady B. like herself. — Preferred it to either of the others — but imagined that might be her want of Taste — as she does not understand Wit. —

M^{rs} Augusta Bramstone - owned that she thought P & P - and P. & P. downright nonsense, but expected to like M. P. better, & having finished the 1st vol. - flattered herself she had got through the worst.

The families at Deane - all pleased with it. - M^{rs} Anna Harwood delighted with M^{rs} Norris & the green - Curtain.

The Kintbury Family - very much pleased with it; - preferred it to either of the others. -

M^r. Egerton the Publisher - praised it for its Morality, & for being so equal a composition - no weak parts.

Lady Rob. Kerr. wrote - "You may be assured. I read every line with the greatest ^{interest} ~~pleasure~~ & am more delighted with it than my humble pen can express. The excellent delineation of character, sound sense, elegant language & the pure morality with which it abounds, make it a ~~very~~ ^{most} desirable as well as useful work, & reflect the highest honour on you. - Universally admired in Edinburgh, by all the wise ones. - Indeed, I have not heard a single fault given to it."

Miss Sharpe - "I think it excellent - & of its good sense & moral tendency there can be no doubt. - Your characters are drawn to the life - so very, very natural & just - but as you beg me to be perfectly honest I must confess I prefer P & P."

M^{rs} Corrick: - "All who think deeply & feel much will give the Preference to Mansfield Park."

M^r. J. Plumptre. - "I never read a novel which interested me so very much throughout, the characters are all so remarkably well kept up & so well drawn, & the plot is so well contrived that I had not an idea till the end which of the two w^o. Mary Anne, H. C. or Eliza. M^{rs} Norris amused me, particularly, & Sir Tho^s is very clever, & his conduct proves admirably the defects of the modern system of Education." - M^r. J. P. made two objections, but only one of them was remembered; the want of some character more ^{striking} interesting to the generality of Readers, than Mary Anne was likely to be. -

Sir James Langhorne & M^r. H. Sanford, having been told that it was much inferior to P. & P. - began it expecting to dislike it, but were

any, soon extremely pleased with it — & I believe, did not think it at all inferior. —

Althea Bigg. — "I have read M.P. & heard it very much talked of, very much praised, I like it myself & think it very good indeed, but as I never say what I do not think, I will add that although it is superior in a great many points in my opinion to the other two works I think it has not the spirit of P.P., except perhaps the Princes family at Antioch, & they are delightful in their way."

Charles — did not like it near so well as P.P. — thought it wanted incident. —

M^{rs} Malting — (Lady Malting's mother) delighted with it, read it through in a day & a half. —

M^{rs} Dickson. — "I have bought M.P. — but it is not equal to P.P. —"

M^{rs} Lefroy — liked it, & but thought it a mere Novel.

M^{rs} Portal — admired it very much. — objected chiefly to Edmunds not being brought more forward.

Lady Gordon wrote "In most novels you are amused for the time with a set of ideal people whom you never think of afterwards or whom you the least expect to meet in common life, whereas in Miss A's works, & especially in M.P. you actually live with them, you fancy yourself one of the family, & the scenes are so exactly described, so perfectly natural, that there is scarcely an incident or conversation or a person that you are not inclined to imagine you have at one time or other in your life been a witness to, been part in, & been acquainted with."

M^{rs} Pole wrote, "There is a particular satisfaction in reading all Miss A's works — they are so evidently written by a Quakerwoman. Most Novelists fail. & betray themselves in attempting to describe familiar scenes in high life, some little vulgarity escapes & shows that they are not experimentally acquainted with what they describe but here it is quite different. Everything is natural. & the situations & incidents are told in a manner which clearly evinces the writer to belong to the society whose manners she so ably delineates." M^{rs} Pole also said that no books had ever occasioned so much canvassing & doubt, & that everybody was desirous to attribute them to some of their friends, or to some person of whom they thought highly.

Adams Took - surprised that I had the power of drawing the Portsmouth
-Scanner so well. -

Mr. Creed - proposed S. S. and P. P. - to Mansfield Park.

II.

Opinions of Mansfield Park.—

“ We certainly do not think it as a *whole*, equal to P. & P.—but it has many & great beauties. Fanny is a delightful Character! and Aunt Norris is a great favourite of mine. The Characters are natural & well supported, & many of the Dialogues excellent.—You need not fear the publication being considered as discreditable to the talents of it's Author.” F.W.A.

Not so clever as P. & P.—but pleased with it altogether. Liked the character of Fanny. Admired the Portsmouth Scene.—Mr K.—

Edward & George.—Not liked it near so well as P. & P.—Edward admired Fanny—George disliked her.—George interested by nobody but Mary Crawford.—Edward pleased with Henry C.—Edmund objected to, as cold & formal.—Henry C.s going off with Mrs R.—at such a time, when so much in love with Fanny, thought unnatural by Edward.—

Fanny Knight.—Liked it, in many parts, very much indeed, delighted with Fanny;—but not satisfied with the end—wanting more Love between her & Edmund—& could not think it natural that Edm^d. sh^d. be so much attached to a woman without Principle like Mary C.—or promote Fanny's marrying Henry.—

Anna liked it better than P. & P.—but not so well as S. & S.—could not bear Fanny.—Delighted with Mrs Norris, the scene at Portsmouth, & all the humourous parts.—

M^{rs} James Austen, very much pleased. Enjoyed M^{rs} Norris particularly, & the scene at Portsmouth. Thought Henry Crawford's going off with M^{rs} Rushworth, very natural.—

Miss Clewes's objections much the same as Fanny's.—

Lloyd preferred it altogether to either of the others.—Delighted with Fanny.—Hated M^{rs} Norris.—

My Mother—not liked it so well as P. & P.—Thought Fanny insipid.—Enjoyed M^{rs} Norris.—

Cassandra—thought it quite as clever, tho' not so brilliant as P. & P.—Fond of Fanny.—Delighted much in M^r Rushworth's stupidity.—

My Eldest Brother—a warm admirer of it in general.—Delighted with the Portsmouth Scene.

Edward—Much like his Father.—Objected to M^{rs} Rushworth's Elopement as unnatural.

M^r B. L.—Highly pleased with Fanny Price—& a warm admirer of the Portsmouth Scene.—Angry with Edmund for not being in love with her, & hating M^{rs} Norris for teasing her.—

Miss Burdett—Did not like it so well as P. & P.

M^{rs} James Tilson—Liked it better than P. & P.

Fanny Cage—did not much like it—not to be compared to P. & P.—nothing interesting in the Characters—Language poor.—Characters natural & well supported—Improved as it went on.—

M^r & M^{rs} Cooke—very much pleased with it—particularly with the Manner in which the Clergy are treated.—M^r Cooke called it “the most sensible Novel he had ever read.”—M^{rs} Cooke wished for a good Matronly Character.—

Mary Cooke—quite as much pleased with it, as her Father & Mother; seemed to enter into Lady B.'s character, & enjoyed

Mr Rushworth's folly. Admired Fanny in general; but thought she ought to have been more determined on overcoming her own feelings, when she saw Edmund's attachment to Miss Crawford.—

Miss Burrel—admired it very much—particularly Mrs. Norris & Dr Grant.—

Mrs Bramstone—much pleased with it; particularly with the character of Fanny, as being so very natural. Thought Lady Bertram like herself.—Preferred it to either of the others—but imagined *that* might be her want of Taste—as she does not understand Wit.—

Mrs Augusta Bramstone—owned that she thought S & S.—and P. & P. downright nonsense, but expected to like M P. better, & having finished the 1st vol.—flattered herself she had got through the worst.

The families at Deane—all pleased with it.—Mrs. Anna Harwood delighted with Mrs Norris & the green Curtain.

The Kintbury Family—very much pleased with it;—preferred it to either of the others.—

Mr Egerton the Publisher—praised it for it's Morality, & for being so equal a Composition.—No weak parts.

Lady Rob : Kerr wrote—"You may be assured I read every line with the greatest interest & am more delighted with it than my humble pen can express. The excellent delineation of Character, sound sense, Elegant Language & the pure morality with which it abounds, makes it a most desirable as well as useful work, & reflects the highest honour &c. &c.—Universally admired in Edinburgh, by all the *wise ones*.—Indeed, I have not heard a single fault given to it."—

Miss Sharpe—"I think it excellent—& of it's good sense &

moral Tendency there can be no doubt.—Your Characters are drawn to the Life—so *very, very* natural & just—but as you beg me to be perfectly honest, I must confess I prefer P & P.”—

M^{rs} Carrick.—“ All who think deeply & feel much will give the Preference to Mansfield Park.”

Mr J. Plumptre.—“ I never read a novel which interested me so very much throughout, the characters are all so remarkably well kept up & so well drawn, & the plot is so well contrived that I had not an idea till the end which of the two w^d marry Fanny, H. C. or Edm^d. M^{rs} Norris amused me particularly, & Sir Tho^s is very clever, & his conduct proves admirably the defects of the modern system of Education.”—Mr J. P. made *two* objections, but only one of them was remembered, the want of some character more striking & interesting to the generality of Readers, than Fanny was likely to be.—

Sir James Langham & Mr H. Sanford, having been told that it was much inferior to P. & P.—began it expecting to dislike it, but were very soon extremely pleased with it—& I *believe*, did not think it at all inferior.—

Alethea Bigg.—“ I have read M P. & heard it very much talked of, very much praised, I like it myself & think it very good indeed, but as I never say what I do not think, I will add that although it is superior in a great many points in my opinion to the other two Works, I think it has not the Spirit of P & P., except perhaps the *Price* family at Portsmouth, & they are delightful in their way.”—

Charles—did not like it near so well as P. & P.—thought it wanted Incident.—

M^{rs} Dickson.—“ I have bought M P.—but it is not equal to P. & P.—

M^{rs} Lefroy—liked it, but thought it a mere Novel.—

M^{rs} Portal—admired it very much—objected chiefly to Edmund's not being brought more forward.—

Lady Gordon wrote “In most novels you are amused for the time with a set of Ideal People whom you never think of afterwards or whom you the least expect to meet in common life, whereas in Miss A-s works, & especially in M P. you actually *live* with them, you fancy yourself one of the family ; & the scenes are so exactly descriptive, so perfectly natural, that there is scarcely an Incident or conversation, or a person that you are not inclined to imagine you have at one time or other in your Life been a witness to, born a part in, & been acquainted with.”

M^{rs} Pole wrote, “There is a particular satisfaction in reading all Miss A-s works—they are so evidently written by a Gentlewoman—most Novellists fail & betray themselves in attempting to describe familiar scenes in high Life, some little vulgarism escapes & shews that they are not experimentally acquainted with what they describe, but here it is quite different. Everything is natural, & the situations & incidents are told in a manner which clearly evinces the Writer to *belong* to the Society whose Manners she so ably delineates.” M^{rs} Pole also said that no Books had ever occasioned so much canvassing & doubt, & that everybody was desirous to attribute them to some of their own friends, or to some person of whom they thought highly.—

Adm^l. Foote—surprised that I had the power of drawing the Portsmouth-Scenes so well.—

M^{rs} Crecd—preferred S & S. and P & P.—to Mansfield Park.

Opinions of ...

- Capt. Austin... liked it extremely, observing that though...
might be more lost in the... & ambivalence in
it... & altogether, on account of its being a... of
Native thought... to prefer it to either.
- Mr. T. L. - liked & admired it very much indeed; but must still
prefer P. & P.
- Mrs. J. Bridges - preferred it to all the others.
- Miss Sharp - better than... but not so well as P. & P. - pleased
with the Native part in particular, delighted with...
& called Mr. T. & Mr. T. beyond praise. Satisfied with Sam. Tristram.
- Cassius... better than P. & P. but not so well as... -
- Fanny R. - not so well as either P. & P. or... could not bear
Emma Russell. Mr. T. might be delightful. Should like
J. F. if she knew more of her.
- Mr. & Mrs. J. H. - did not like it so well as either of the 3 others
Language different from the others; not so easily read.
- Edward - preferred it to all P. - only. - Mr. T. liked by everybody.
- Miss Bigg - not equal to either P. & P. - or... objected
to the names of the subjects. (I let making all
through. - too much of Mr. T. in the language upon
to the other.
- Mrs. Mott - thought it more entertaining than... but not so
interesting as P. & P. - it is harder to read equal to...
Mr. Collins...
- Miss Lloyd - as ^{thought it} clear as either of the others but did not receive so
much pleasure from it as from P. & P. - or... -
- Mrs. & Miss Conner - liked it very much; but not so much as
the others.
- Fanny C. - liked it very much indeed, & clasped it between
P. & P. - &... -
- Mr. Shrew - did not think it equal to either... (which he
liked the best of all) or... Displeased with my...

Picture of Slavery.

- Miss Biggs - on reading it a second time, liked Miss Bates much better than at first, & expressed herself as liking all the people of Highbury in general, except Harriet Smith. - but did not help till thinking her too silly in her loves.
- The Family at Upton Chase - all very much amused with it. Miss Bates a great favourite with Mr. Beaumont.
- Mr & Mrs Leigh Hunt - saw many beauties in it; but did not think it equal to P. & F. - Fanny & Eliza had thought them for anything else. Mr. T. Parnham, an excellent character, Emma better looks than a match-maker often has. - Pity Fanny's trifles - thought Frank Churchill better treated than he deserved.
- Countess Caswell - admired it very much, but did not think it equal to P. & F. - while she ranked as the very best of its sort.
- Mr Quin - thought it too natural to be interesting.
- Mr Dwyer - did not like it so well as the others, in fact if she had not known the author well, would have got through it.
- Miss Tupper - admired it very much, particularly Mr & Mrs.
- Fanny Sanford - very much pleased with it - delighted with Miss Bates but thought Mr & Mrs. Elton the best & dearest characters in the work. - Harriet & Mr. Parnham still her favourites.
- Mr. Haden - quite delighted with it. Admired the character of Parnham.
- Miss Isabella Kemble - did not like it - objected to my exposing herself in the character of the heroine - convinced that I had meant to do it. Miss Bates is some acquaintance of hers - People whom I am afraid of exposing.
- Miss Erskine - admired it very much, but M. P. still her favourite of all.
- Countess Morley - delighted with it.
- Mr. Colville - liked it so little that Fanny would not send me one opinion.
- Mr & Mrs. Dutton - did not much like it - thought it very inferior

to Mr. P. D. - I liked it better, from there being a little more in it.

Mr. B. Brandereth - thought the 3. vols. superior to anything I had ever written. - 'Quite beautiful' -

Mr. B. Lefroy - thought that if there had been more incident, it would be equal to any of the others. The characters quite as well drawn & supported as in any & from being more even-day ones, the more entertaining. Did not like the Heroine so well as any of the others. Miss Bates excellent, but rather too much of her. Mr. & Mrs. Elton, admirable, & John Knightley a sensible man. -

Mr. B. Lefroy - ranked Emma as a composition with P. D. - but not so brilliant as P. D. - nor so equal as M. P. Preferred Emma herself to all the heroines. The characters like all the others admirably well drawn & supported. - perhaps rather less strongly marked than some, but only the more natural for that reason. - Mr. Knightley Mr. Elton & Miss Bates too prominent. Thought one or two of the conversations too long.

Mr. Lefroy - preferred it to M. P. - but liked M. P. the best of all.

Mr. Fowler - read only the 1st & last chapters, because he had heard it was not interesting.

Mr. Lubbock & Water - liked it very much, better than M. P. - & thought it had brought it all about very cleverly in the last volume.

Mr. C. Cary wrote thus to Fanny - 'A great many thanks for the loan of Emma, which I am delighted with. I like it better than any. Her character is thoroughly kept up. I must enjoy reading it again with Charles. Miss Bates is incomparable, but I was ~~exactly~~ killed with those previous treasures! They are unique, & really, with more fun than I can express. I am at Brighton all day, & I can't help feeling I have just got into a new set of acquaintances. No one writes such good sense, & so very comfortable.'

Mr. Wroughton. did not like it so well as P. & P. - Thought the
Author's wrong, in such times as these, to draw such
clearness as I Mr. Collier & Mr. Pilon.

Mr. J. Langham - thought it much inferior to the others. -

Mr. Selby of the Edinburgh (review) was kept up by it three nights.

Miss Auden - certainly inferior to all the others.

Capt. C. Austen wrote - "Emma arrived in time to a moment. I am
delighted with her, more so I think than even with my favourite
Pride & Prejudice, & have read it three times in the Palace."

Mr. D. Dundas - thought it very clever, but did not like it so well as
either of the others.

III.

Opinions of *Emma*.

Captⁿ Austen.—liked it extremely, observing that though there might be more Wit in P & P—& an higher Morality in M P—yet altogether, on account of it's peculiar air of Nature throughout, he preferred it to either.

M^{rs} F. A.—liked & admired it very much indeed, but must still prefer P. & P.

M^{rs} J. Bridges—preferred it to all the others.

Miss Sharp—better than M P.—but not so well as P. & P.—pleased with the Heroine for her Originality, delighted with M^r K—& called M^{rs} Elton beyond praise.—dissatisfied with Jane Fairfax.

Cassandra—better than P. & P.—but not so well as M. P.—

Fanny K.—not so well as either P. & P. or M P.—could not bear *Emma* herself.—M^r Knightley delightful.—Should like J. F.—if she knew more of her.—

M^r & M^{rs} J. A.—did not like it so well as either of the 3 others. Language different from the others; not so easily read.—

Edward—preferred it to M P.—*only*. —M^r K. liked by every body.

Miss Bigg—not equal to either P & P.—or M P.—objected to the sameness of the subject (Match-making) all through. —'Too much of M^r Elton & H. Smith. Language superior to the others.—

My Mother—thought it more entertaining than M P.—but

not so interesting as P. & P.—No characters in it equal to Ly Catherine & Mr Collins.—

Miss Lloyd—thought it as *clever* as either of the others, but did not receive so much pleasure from it as from P. & P.—& M P.—

Mrs & Miss Craven—liked it very much, but not so much as the others.—

Fanny Cage—liked it very much indeed & classed it between P & P.—& M P.—

Mr Shean—did not think it equal to either M P—(which he liked the best of all) or P & P.—Displeased with my pictures of Clergymen.—

Miss Bigg—on reading it a second time, liked Miss Bates much better than at first, & expressed herself as liking all the people of Highbury in general, except Harriet Smith—but c^d not help still thinking *her* too silly in her Loves.

The family at Upton Gray—all very much amused with it.—Miss Bates a great favourite with Mrs Beaufoy.

Mr & Mrs Leigh Perrot—saw many beauties in it, but c^d not think it equal to P. & P.—Darcy & Elizth had spoilt them for anything else.—Mr K. however, an excellent Character; Emma better luck than a Matchmaker often has.—Pitied Jane Fairfax—thought Frank Churchill better treated than he deserved.—

Countess Craven—admired it very much, but did not think it equal to P & P.—which she ranked as the very first of it's sort.—

Mrs Guiton—thought it too natural to be interesting.

Mrs Digweed—did not like it so well as the others, in fact if

she had not known the Author, could hardly have got through it.

Miss Terry—admired it very much, particularly M^{rs} Elton.

Henry Sanford—very much pleased with it—delighted with Miss Bates, but thought M^{rs} Elton the best-drawn Character in the Book.—Mansfield Park however, still his favourite.

Mr Haden—*quite* delighted with it. Admired the Character of Emma.—

Miss Isabella Herries—did not like it—objected to my exposing the sex in the character of the Heroine—convinced that I had meant M^{rs} & Miss Bates for some acquaintance of theirs—People whom I never heard of before.—

Miss Harriet Moore—admired it very much, but M. P. still her favourite of all.—

Countess Morley—delighted with it.—

Mr Cockerell—liked it so little, that Fanny wd not send me his opinion.—

M^{rs} Dickson—did not much like it—thought it *very* inferior to P. & P.—Liked it the less, from there being a Mr. & M^{rs} Dixon in it.—

M^{rs} Brandreth—thought the 3^d vol: superior to anything I had ever written—quite beautiful!—

Mr B. Lefroy—thought that if there had been more Incident, it would be equal to any of the others.—The Characters quite as well drawn & supported as in any, & from being more everyday ones, the more entertaining.—Did not like the Heroine so well as any of the others. Miss Bates excellent, but rather too much of her. Mr & M^{rs} Elton admirable & John Knightley a sensible Man.—

Mrs B. Lefroy—rank'd *Emma* as a composition with S & S.—not so *Brilliant* as P. & P—nor so *equal* as M P.—Preferred *Emma* herself to all the heroines.—The Characters like all the others admirably well drawn & supported—perhaps rather less strongly marked than some, but only the more natural for that reason.—Mr Knightley Mrs Elton & Miss Bates her favourites.—Thought one or two of the conversations too long.—

Mrs Lefroy—preferred it to M P—but liked M P. the least of all.

Mr Fowle—read only the first & last Chapters, because he had heard it was not interesting.—

Mrs Lutley Selater—liked it very much, better than M P—& thought I had “brought it all about very cleverly in the last volume.”—

Mrs C. Cage wrote thus to Fanny—“A great many thanks for the loan of *Emma*, which I am delighted with. I like it better than any. Every character is thoroughly kept up. I must enjoy reading it again with Charles. Miss Bates is incomparable, but I was nearly killed with those precious treasures! They are Unique, & really with more fun than I can express. I am at Highbury all day, & I can't help feeling I have just got into a new set of acquaintance. No one writes such good sense. & so very comfortable.

Mrs Wroughton—did not like it so well as P. & P.—Thought the Authoress wrong, in such times as these, to draw such Clergymen as Mr Collins & Mr Elton.

Sir J. Langham—thought it much inferior to the others.—

Mr Jeffery (of the Edinburgh Review) was kept up by it three nights.

Miss Murden—certainly inferior to all the others.

Capt. C. Austen wrote—"Emma arrived in time to a moment.

I am delighted with her, more so I think than even with my favourite *Pride & Prejudice*, & have read it three times in the Passage."

M^{rs} D. Dundas—thought it very clever, but did not like it so well as either of the others.

IV.

Correspondence between Miss Austen and the
Rev. J. S. Clarke, Librarian to the Prince Regent.

1. Miss Austen to Mr. Clarke

15 November 1815

(From her copy of the original; no address)

Copy of my Letter to Mr Clarke, Nov: 15.-1815.

Sir/I must take the liberty of asking you a question.—
Among the many flattering attentions which I rec^d from you
at Carlton House on Monday last, was the Information of my
being at liberty to dedicate any future work to H R H. the
P.R. without the necessity of any solicitation on my part.
Such at least, I beleived to be your words; but as I am very
anxious to be quite certain of what was intended, I intreat you
to have the goodness to inform me how such a Permission is
to be understood, & whether it is incumbent on me to shew my
sense of the Honour, by inscribing the Work now in the Press,
to H.R.H.—I sh^d be equally concerned to appear either Pre-
sumptuous or Ungrateful.—

I am &c.—

2. Mr. Clarke to Miss Austen

16 November 1815

(From the original)

Miss Austen

N^o 23.

Hans Place

Sloane Street.

Postmarks: Two Py Post Unpaid Jermyn St.
10 o'Clock 16. NO 1815 F. N^a.

Carlton House

Nov^r: 16th: 1815.

Dear Madam.

It is certainly not *incumbent* on you to dedicate your work now in the Press to His Royal Highness: but if you wish to do the Regent that honour either now or at any future period, I am happy to send you that permission which need not require any more trouble or solicitation on your Part.

Your late Works, Madam, and in particular Mansfield Park reflect the highest honour on your Genius & your Principles; in every new work your mind seems to increase its energy and powers of discrimination. The Regent has read & admired all your publications.

Accept my sincere thanks for the pleasure your Volumes have given me: in the perusal of them I felt a great inclination to write & say so. And I also dear Madam wished to be allowed to ask you, to delineate in some future Work the Habits of Life and Character and enthusiasm of a Clergyman—

who should pass his time between the metropolis & the Country
—who should be something like Beatties Minstrel

Silent when glad, affectionate tho' shy
And now his look was most demurely sad
& now he laughd aloud yet none knew why—

Neither Goldsmith—nor La Fontaine in his *Tableau de Famille*—have in my mind quite delineated an English Clergyman, at least of the present day—Fond of, & entirely engaged in Literature—no man's Enemy but his own. Pray dear Madam think of these things.

Believe me at all times
With sincerity & respect
Your faithful & obliged Servant
J. S. Clarke
Librarian.

P. S.

I am going for about three weeks to Mr. Henry Streatfeilds, Chiddingstone Sevenoaks—but hope on my return to have the honour of seeing you again.

3. Miss Austen to Mr. Clarke

11 December 1815

(From *Life and Letters* p. 319)

Dear Sir,—My *Emma* is now so near publication that I feel it right to assure you of my not having forgotten your kind recommendation of an early copy for Carlton House, and that I have Mr. Murray's promise of its being sent to His Royal Highness, under cover to you, three days previous to the work being really out. I must make use of this opportunity to thank you, dear Sir, for the very high praise you bestow on my

other novels. I am too vain to wish to convince you that you have praised them beyond their merit. My greatest anxiety at present is that this fourth work should not disgrace what was good in the others. But on this point I will do myself the justice to declare that, whatever may be my wishes for its success, I am very strongly haunted by the idea that to those readers who have preferred *Pride and Prejudice* it will appear inferior in wit ; and to those who have preferred *Mansfield Park*, very inferior in good sense. Such as it is, however, I hope you will do me the favour of accepting a copy. Mr. Murray will have directions for sending one. I am quite honoured by your thinking me capable of drawing such a clergyman as you gave the sketch of in your note of November 16th. But I assure you I am *not*. The comic part of the character I might be equal to, but not the good, the enthusiastic, the literary. Such a man's conversation must at times be on subjects of science and philosophy, of which I know nothing ; or at least occasionally abundant in quotations and allusions which a woman who, like me, knows only her own mother tongue, and has read little in that, would be totally without the power of giving. A classical education, or at any rate a very extensive acquaintance with English literature, ancient and modern, appears to me quite indispensable for the person who would do any justice to your clergyman ; and I think I may boast myself to be, with all possible vanity, the most unlearned and uninformed female who ever dared to be an authoress.

Believe me, dear Sir,

Your obliged and faithful hum^{bl} Serv^t,

JANE AUSTEN.

4. Mr. Clarke to Miss Austen

Thursday (21 December ?) 1815

(From the original ; the address is lost)

Carlton House

Thursday, 1815

My dear Madam.

The Letter you were so obliging as to do me the Honour of sending, was forwarded to me in Kent, where in a Village, Chiddingstone near Sevenoaks, I had been hiding myself from all bustle and turmoil—and getting Spirits for a Winter Campaign—and Strength to stand the sharp knives which many a Shylock is wetting to cut more than a Pound of Flesh from my heart, on the appearance of James the Second.

On Monday I go to Lord Egremonts at Petworth—where your Praises have long been sounded as they ought to be. I shall then look in on the Party at the Pavilion for a couple of nights—and return to preach at Park Street Chapel Green St. on the Thanksgiving Day.

You were very good to send me Emma—which I have in no respect deserved. It is gone to the Prince Regent. I have read only a few Pages which I very much admired—there is so much nature—and excellent description of Character in every thing you describe. Pray continue to write, & make all your friends send Sketches to help you—and Memoires pour servir—as the French term it. Do let us have an English Clergyman

after *your* fancy—much novelty may be introduced—shew dear Madam what good would be done if Tythes were taken away entirely, and describe him burying his own mother—as I did—because the High Priest of the Parish in which she died—did not pay her remains the respect he ought to do. I have never recovered the Shock. Carry your Clergyman to Sea as the Friend of some distinguished Naval Character about a Court—you can then bring forward like Le Sage many interesting Scenes of Character & Interest.

But forgive me, I cannot write to you without wishing to elicit your Genius;—& I fear I cannot do that, without trespassing on your Patience and Good Nature.

I have desired Mr Murray to procure, if he can, two little Works I ventured to publish from being at Sea—Sermons which I wrote & preached on the Ocean—& the Edition which I published of Falconers Shipwreck.

Pray, dear Madam, remember, that besides My Cell at Carlton House, I have another which Dr Barne procured for me at N^o: 37. Golden Square—where I often hide myself. There is a small Library there much at your Service—and if you can make the Cell render you any service as a sort of Half-way House, when you come to Town—I shall be most happy. There is a Maid Servant of mine always there.

I hope to have the honour of sending you James the 2^d when it reaches a second Ed :—as some few Notes may possibly be then added.

Yours dear Madam, very sincerely

J. S. Clarke.

5. Mr. Clarke to Miss Austen

27 March 1816

(From *Life and Letters* p. 322; the original is lost except its wrapper, given below)

Brighton. March twenty seventh
1816.

Miss Jane Austen
at Mr. Murrays
Albemarle Street

Clarence London

Redirected : Chawton Alton Hants.

Postmarks : 27, 28, and 29 MR 1816

Pavilion : March 27, 1816.

Dear Miss Austen,—I have to return you the thanks of His Royal Highness, the Prince Regent, for the handsome copy you sent him of your last excellent novel. Pray, dear Madam, soon write again and again. Lord St. Helens and many of the nobility, who have been staying here, paid you the just tribute of their praise.

The Prince Regent has just left us for London; and having been pleased to appoint me Chaplain and Private English Secretary to the Prince of Cobourg, I remain here with His Serene Highness and a select party until the marriage. Perhaps when you again appear in print you may chuse to dedicate your volumes to Prince Leopold: any historical romance, illustrative of the history of the august House of Cobourg, would just now be very interesting.

Believe me at all times,

Dear Miss Austen,

Your obliged friend,

J. S. Clarke.

6. Miss Austen to Mr. Clarke

1 April 1816

(From *Life and Letters* p. 323)

My Dear Sir,—I am honoured by the Prince's thanks and very much obliged to yourself for the kind manner in which you mention the work. I have also to acknowledge a former letter forwarded to me from Hans Place. I assure you I felt very grateful for the friendly tenor of it, and hope my silence will have been considered, as it was truly meant, to proceed only from an unwillingness to tax your time with idle thanks. Under every interesting circumstance which your own talent and literary labours have placed you in, or the favour of the Regent bestowed, you have my best wishes. Your recent appointments I hope are a step to something still better. In my opinion, the service of a court can hardly be too well paid, for immense must be the sacrifice of time and feeling required by it.

You are very, very kind in your hints as to the sort of composition which might recommend me at present, and I am fully sensible that an historical romance, founded on the House of Saxe Cobourg, might be much more to the purpose of profit or popularity than such pictures of domestic life in country villages as I deal in. But I could no more write a romance than an epic poem. I could not sit seriously down to write a serious romance under any other motive than to save my life; and if it were indispensable for me to keep it up and never relax into laughing at myself or at other people, I am sure I

should be hung before I had finished the first chapter. No, I must keep to my own style and go on in my own way, and though I may never succeed again in that, I am convinced that I should totally fail in any other.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Your very much obliged, and sincere friend,

J. Austen.

Chawton, near Alton, April 1, 1816.

Note to Page 27.

La Fontaine in his Tableau de Famille. This is *Leben eines armen Landpredigers*, by August Heinrich Julius Lafontaine, 1801, of which a French translation by Mme de Montholieu, *Nouveaux Tableaux de Famille, ou la vie d'un pauvre ministre de village allemand et ses enfants*, was reprinted in London, 1803. *Tableaux de Famille* is the first title of the same translator's version of *Karl Engelmanns Tagebuch*, by the same author, 1800, but Mr. Clarke clearly intended the *Nouveaux Tableaux*.

V.

Notes by Miss Austen on the Dates of
Composition of her Novels and on the
Profits derived from them

Mansfield Park
 Began somewhere
 about Feb^y 1811
 Finished soon
 after June 1813

Persuasion
 Began Sept^r 1815
 Finished Oct 6th 1816
 Emma
 Began Jan^y 21 1814
~~in March 1815~~
 Finished March 25
 1817

Profits of my Novels, over & above the £600 in
 the Navy Fund.

Residue from the 1 st Edit: of Mansfield Park.	} £	13 " 7
Remainder in Hamiltons 1 st March, 1816		
Rec ^d from Egerton, on 2 ^d Edit: of Sense & Sensibility	} £	12 " 15
Feb. 21. 1817		
1817 } First Profits of Emma		38 " 10
March 7. 1817 } From Egerton - 2 ^d Edit: P & P.		19 " 13

PR 4034.P6 1926

Plan of a nov

cen



3 0061 002 063 802